

REMARKS

Status of claims

All claims have been rejected under 35 USC sec. 103 based on the argued combination of Bogdahn et al. (U.S. patent 6,098,428) with Yamamura et al. (U.S. patent 6,742,363).

Reconsideration of the rejection based on the present amendment Information Disclosure Statement respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the recitation of the method. Claim 1 now recites that the measurement of the actual state of radial circular or annular dimension of the test glass strand comprises measuring at each of a plurality of measurement points distributed around a circumference of the test glass strand a respective wall thickness of the tubular test glass strand, and the deviation determined is a determined degree of lopsidedness and a determined direction of lopsidedness of the test glass strand.

The cited prior art does not suggest a plurality of measurements of wall thickness of a tube being drawn or a determination of lopsidedness.

Bogdahn shows a system in which a tube is drawn and the wall thickness at a single location is detected by a wall thickness measuring device 11. See, Bogdahn, FIG. 1. See also, col. 9, line 30 to 33 [indicating that the wall thickness can be measured directly or determined from measurements of the inner diameter and the outer diameter]. Bogdahn's measurement or calculation of a single thickness of the tube wall would not yield information that could be used to determine lopsidedness, as recited in claim 1. Bogdahn therefore does not suggest a method

as set out in claim 1 as amended.

Yamamura teaches a method in which a position control unit 158 calculates a deviation between a position of the center of the rod as it is taken off and the elongating axis of the apparatus. See Yamamura, col: 10, lines 6 to 9. When bending of the rod is detected, the rollers 144a and b are controlled to bring the rod back to the centerline of the apparatus. Col. 10, lines 9 to 16. Yamamura detects only the position of the rod, not a wall thickness, let alone a determination of lopsidedness based on a plurality of wall thickness measurements. Yamamura therefore also does not suggest a method that detects and corrects lopsidedness, as recited in claim 1 as amended.

For the foregoing reasons, claim 1 as amended distinguishes over the prior art, and reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested, together with the rejections of claims 2, 5 to 11, 18 and 19, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and therefore distinguish therewith over the prior art.

Independent claim 20

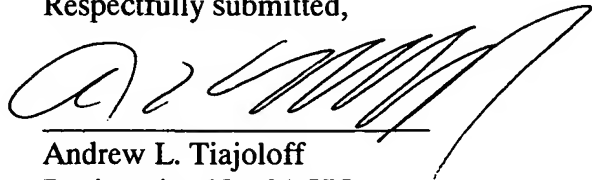
Claim 20 has here been amended to recite that the geometrical attribute includes a data value indicative of a degree of lopsidedness of the test strand and a data value indicative of the orientation of lopsidedness of the test strand relative to the heating tube, and that the data values indicative of lopsidedness are derived from a plurality of measurements of wall thicknesses of the tubular test strand distributed around a circumference of the test strand.

As discussed above, the cited prior art shows only measurement of the position of the center of a rod being drawn (Yamamura) or measurement of the wall thickness of a tube as a

All claims having been shown to distinguish over the prior art in structure, function and result, formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone attorney for applicants at 212-490-3285.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. L. Tiajolloff', written over a horizontal line.

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